

Translation

During my trip to Philadelphia to the sports meet (July 1959) between U.S.A. and USSR. I had opportunity to meet and talk with the following individuals of Ukrainian extraction:

1. UKRIANKA PRESS, TAMARA (KHARKOV) 22 years of age. Student in a physical culture institute. Understands Ukrainian well, but is cautious about speaking the language. Life has improved in material aspects but from the political standpoint (especially education) remain as they were before the war. I am of the opinion that she could tell much more at a more appropriate time.

2. CHENYK, T. from the village of VYNOZOV, Chernihiv oblast (the newspapers listed another point of origin). She was departed (as she stated - transferred) to Siberia where she completed studies in the Electro - Technological Institute in Chylyabynsk. She lives in the Ukraine only when she attends sports events. She wasn't very anxious to talk. She didn't want to talk about Ukrainian matters...."churches do exist but are attended only by the elders." The war brought great problems for everyone and therefore they (Soviet peoples) do not want war.

3. LIFSHTYS, Victor Student at the Institute of Physical Culture in Leningrad. Friendly. He smiled (which others rarely did). Life in the villages is much worse than in the cities. The youth escapes to the cities for any kind of work. It is possible to change jobs and people are taking advantage of this fact. People know about the emigres and in general have no bad feelings towards them. The parcels (from the west) are received and do help the people. It is difficult to get into institutions of higher learning

and entrance fees are high. Ukrainian is used in private conversations. The Russian language predominates.

4. TSYBULENKO, Victor (Kiev). He knew about the Ukrainian emigration about which mention is also made in the newspapers. People listen to Western broadcasts (although we were speaking in general about other individuals it was apparent that he also listens to the broadcasts because he mentioned that seldom does one hear an interesting broadcast.) He mentioned only the BBC.

5. LYSENKO, LUDMILLA (her married name is SHEVCHOV). Churches do exist but only older people attend. Life improved under Khrushchev. Her permanent residence is in Leningrad. During her visits to the Ukraine she notices changes. The youth escapes to the cities. Many have returned home from Kazakhstan. One is able to obtain everything. She didn't hear about Russification. As usual, Russian is spoken in the cities and Ukrainian in the villages. She refused to answer the question as to whether it was a good idea to return home (to the Ukraine).

6. OVENECHAN, Ihor Ter (Lvov). Armenian by birth. Young - naive. He seemed afraid (or shy) to converse. He became perplexed when I conveyed my greetings to his father (his father was a well known pre-war sportsman). He has completed studies in a physical culture institute in Lvov. He is supposed to be working in Kiev.

7. PEIRENKO, Ihor (Kiev). Studied in the physical culture institute. He wanted to be a medical doctor but left his studies because it was too difficult. Sports offer a good livelihood. It is difficult to say whether life is better in the east or in the west. Villagers are better off in the east. In general,

SECRET

-3-

everyone from the villages goes to the cities, which is not true in Russia. The war will bring additional hardships. The older people are waiting, the youth is fearful. He said that they are able to discriminate very well between propaganda and truth. He could speak Ukrainian but didn't want to do so when others were present.

In addition I talked to the following individuals:

1. KREPKIN, Vera (Russian). Student at the Pedagogical Institute in Kiev. She comes from the Urals but lives in Kiev. She could not speak Ukrainian. She likes living in Kiev. In reply to my question as to how she can study in Kiev when she doesn't know the Ukrainian language, she said that she understands the language. She is a professional sportswoman. She has been in Switzerland, Hungary and Poland.
2. RYNYSHECHYN, Semen. A lieutenant in the Red Army. Earns 2000 rubles per month. He said everything was much better at home (Soviet Union). Typical Soviet chelovyek.
3. GUBERT, Denkerovi (Estonian) Master of sports. He was followed at all times. He said that life in Moscow is better than in Tallin. He had heard Western broadcasts in the Russian language. He perked up when I told him that many Estonians live here and that they have their own newspaper and club. Our conversation was interrupted. It was obvious that he was interested in everything about the West. In the interim of the "sportsmen" (Said he was a xogek but he didn't take nay part in the activities) reminded him (the Estonian) to be careful because I was from the special service (writer uses the term "spetz otдела"), The Estonian began to avoid me after that.

SECRET

-4-

4. RUDENKO, ~~V~~ (Minsk). Teacher of USSR and Party history. He earns 1500 rubles monthly for a 6 hour day. He has his own car. He said things improved after the death of Stalin. He admits the mistakes of Stalin but speaks the party line. He remained silent when I stated that the competition of a two party system leads to a better life. He said he was a Byelorussian.

5. BOKOLOV. He refused to talk about anything but sports. He wouldn't say where he was from.

General Observations

1. The people are afraid to talk. They reduce all conversations to brief replies. It is obvious they fear provocation. As a rule, those that speak are 200% Soviet and even these don't always have a ready reply. Conversations with them don't make sense. They don't speak of changes in the Soviet Union (everything there is good, come and see).

2. They all were given political orientation. All the replies and counter replies are standard.

3. They want to achieve first place in techniques.

4. The sportsmen were put through a two weeks training course b y Moscow.

5. They were in good physical form because most of them had attended sports meets in Poland and Hungary.

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to AECASSOWARY 2